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LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

BY MISS CLARA V. DARGAN.

Dum Vivamus Vivamus.

Yes, "let us live while we live." What's the use of moping and groaning when there is a bright sky above us—aye, and "Our Father's" smiling face—a green earth beneath us, flowers, and music, and sunlight, and love? Do the diamond eyes here weep? Do the mocking-birds mourn? Do the flowers sigh? And they have not the half—the thousandth part of our happiness. They have no mind filled with the jewels of knowledge; no heart overflowing with love to God and man; no soul with immortal hopes and desires which will live forever. Poor little birds and flowers! Their existence is but for a brief day, or at most a brief season; and they die never to live again. Surely, then, we should be happier. Look up, and take heart of grace, believing all will be for the best. There's no use fretting, friend. Pull down your vest (if you have one) and hold up your head. Look honestly at life, and life will look honestly at you. Remember whether you are poor or unfortunate, or friendless—

"A man's a man for a' that!" Nobody's going to deny it, unless you begin to suspect your own right to the title. Respect yourself, and you will be respected; but never go ranting about, threatening to break the head of the first person who does not respect you, because nobody can enforce reverence where it does not flow spontaneously. Above all things don't mope—I pray you, don't mope! Let gamblers and thieves and dishonest men generally, lounge at corners, and wait for their prey. Do you pick up your hat and your heart, and look for something to do, and when you find it, do it with all your might. Never say "I can't," and do be in earnest at all times.

A laugh is the best medicine for all sorrows, and good, hard work for all trouble. Mind, I do not say frivolous mirth, with an unmeaning, foolish sound; "the laughter of fools is like the crackling of thorns under a pot;" but the sunshine of a cheerful heart, and contented spirit, without which no one on this earth can be truly happy. Under all circumstances, and at all times, remember your Father in Heaven, who careth for you—who has numbered the very hairs of your head, and will never forsake you thro' evil and good report. Religion and cheerfulness are inseparable, however much had been said to the contrary. The merriest, happiest, kindest person I ever knew was—we have sometimes said since the daisies grew over his grave—"an angel" whom we "entertained unawares." If ever the Lord of God shone in any human face, his blue eyes, now closed forever, beamed with that glorious light. He was never sad, never cast down, never discontented. Flowers of affection and trust bloomed in his pathway wherever he went; the sunshine of unclouded faith streamed around him; the pure air of unfeigned truth hallowed his presence. But he is gone! Amid all temptations—in the flush of youth and hope—in the agonies of disease and death, his faithful heart sustained him; he never doubted God's promises. "Beyond the sun" he now bodes his soul in eternal love; and that voice so musical—in every cadence so joyous and inspiring, now swells in immortal sweetness before the throne of Jehovah. Let us like him live, that we may like him die.

Honesty.

We all know the utter misery of being deceived. No one of Adam's sons, or Eve's daughters, has escaped the curse since the Angel waved his flaming sword over the barred gates of Paradise, and the first man and woman caught its fearful glare as they fled from the scene of their sin. Verily, we are oftentimes tempted to believe there is no truth on earth! All the fondest dreams of youth deceived us; all the hopes of ripeness deceived us; the fairest fruit proved but Apples of Sodom—dust and ashes!—and the flowers were Upas blossoms, or, at best, a Lotus!

"Are you honest?" was the thrilling question of Hamlet to Ophelia, and well might she start. Can one of us hear it with composure? We dread to be doubted, yet we know there is no truth in us. How absurd then is the charge of overhonesty. Poor Ophelia! with all your true womanhood—your pure love and earnest pleading—your flowers and wild, sad songs—your heart broken lullaby and sorrowful death—nobody ever charged you with being "too honest." In fact, your lover seemed to have doubted it in spite of evidence; and so effectually, that to this day, one is uncertain whether he were not the greater deceiver of the two. But we are running away.

For all this, no one can say there are not some who have never disappointed us—whose "yea is yea," and whose "nay is nay." These, and these only are worthy of trust and affection. A well known writer has said, "The truest love ever reposes in a simple heart." To trust any but a honest man is but a "thorn in the flesh"—a perpetual source of unhappiness and regret. Not a word do they utter but we are prepared for its falsity; not a sentiment do they express, but we tremble lest it should prove untrue. Unless perfect and entire confidence is given, love is, and must remain, tame. Of the many unhappy households we have seen, distrust was at the foundation of all. There were little evasions and pretensions—a setting forth of false notions—a remonstrance, uncertain air of dishonesty—in short, a complete system of cheating going on that is positively sickening. Oh, why will people not throw aside the hypocritical mask of conventionalism, and be honest?—But there is one who never deceives—whose promises never fail—who is a "stone which cannot be moved." He alone is worthy of the unbounded faith and love which exist in every human heart, and must be bestowed on some object. If, in

the words of the beautiful old song "There's nothing true but Heaven," let us there fix our affections, and then we may be assured of perfect happiness both now and forever. Otherwise, we may be certain that no haven below is safe for our tossed and troubled bark. Continual bickerings, and strifes, and restless roaming to and fro in search of something to depend upon, will weary, the strongest and bravest heart; and amid dark clouds of despair it will sink into fatal Stoicism.

C. V. D.

For the Literary Corner. Three Extracts from My Journal.

By NETTIE WITHERS.

March 12th, 1861.

"Off for the wars!" Yes, he has gone! The words fall heavily on my heart, while the fast-falling tears almost blind me as I write. But, journal, you know not how dear he is to me—Wallace Hunter, my betrothed. I have told you he was my childhood's playmate, my girlhood's friend, but I cannot explain to you how it is, that, sad as I am, his last words "Mine, mine only, forever," echo in my heart, awaking it from gloom; Yes, yes, in my inmost soul I feel that I am his, his only, forever.

"Off for the wars to-morrow," he exclaimed as he entered our wicket gate; and despite my pride—for I would not have him know my love was given unsought—the coward blood retreated to its source, and my lips were white with unspoken anguish. But soon he called the crimson torrent back, and brought the tremulous smile to his lips. Shall I tell you the magic words? Suffice it, I have promised that ere another Spring shall make verdant the hills and forests, I shall be his wife, if the war is over. Oh terrible war! Just punishment to take him from me; I had not felt it else.

July, 1861.

Once more "Off to the wars!" Gone again! Scarcely had I whispered "Joy!" he is with me—scarcely had my cottage home grown vocal with our wondrous songs, ere the parting came. Once more my heart is wrung, but a ray of God-given sunlight cheers me when I think he is unchanged, not only in his love, but no traces of the demon of camp life are in his eyes, though a shade of deeper thought is on his noble brow, and the shadow of the bitter war seems to temper his old hilarity. But not changed! I thank Thee, Father, and still implore thy shielding Arm!

March, 1862.

Gone forever now! They tell me he is dead—that a mound of fresh-turned clay covers my noble lover. They say he bravely fought, until, as he stooped to save my wounded brother from the tramp of our advancing cavalry, the deadly missile entered his side, and falling he exclaimed "Jesus! forgive"—and with an effort "Tell my Nettie"—then—the heart that dictated, and the lips that spoke this message of love, were silent forever. It is strange how calmly I write—strange that I should seem to care so little. I even smiled as a gossiping neighbor remarked to my mother, "Did I thought Nettie would have felt it more?" Did I smile? A ghastly shadow of my former mirth, for the "iron has entered my soul," and when the birds have built their nests in the acacias under whose swinging boughs he told his love I shall have joined him in the *Forever*. Our home is silent now, for I no more challenge in merry rivalry the mocking birds; strain, but, up yonder, Wallace, old voices shall mingle as of yore.

He has only preceded me a little, I must not weep. Weep! vain word, my eyes are fearless; why should I weep when he beckons me onward? I come, Wallace, my beloved, I come!

For the Seven-year-olds.

Miss C. V. D.: Will you please accept this Enigma, composed by a little girl who is very much interested in your Paper and wishes to add her little mite.

ENIGMA.

I am composed of twelve letters.
My 3, 12, 10, is an instrument used in writing.
My 3, 6, 5, 9, is the sea.
My 1, 7, 2, is a public house.
My 8, 1, 2, is a stamp used in coining money.
My 1, 11, 9, is conjoined water.
My 7, 4, 9, 8, is want.
My whole is what every true-hearted Southerner desires.

VIOLA.

The Impressment Bill.

We give below a carefully made and condensed abstract of the Impressment Bill, reported to Congress by the Committee of Conference, and which has passed both Houses.

SECTION 1. Whenever two exigencies of an army in the field may be necessary, property may be impressed by the officers whose duty it is to furnish such property to the army. When the owner of the property and the impressing officer cannot agree upon the value of the property, the impressing officer, upon the affidavit of the owner or his agent, that such property was given, raised or produced by the owner, or is held, or has been purchased by him, not for sale or speculation, but for his own consumption, shall cause the value to be ascertained by the judgment of two loyal and disinterested citizens of the city, county or parish where the impressment may be made, one assessor to be selected by the impressing officer, and the other by the owner, and in case of a disagreement between the appraisers, the latter shall choose an umpire, whose judgment shall be final. The impressing officer shall administer an oath to appraise fairly and impartially to the appraisers, who shall then proceed to assess just compensation for the property impressed, whether the absolute ownership, or the temporary use thereof only is required.

SEC. 2. Two officers impressing property shall, at the time of impressment, pay to the owner or his agent the compensation fixed by the appraisers; and shall also give the owner, or his official signature, a certificate that said property is essential to the use of the army, and that it could not be otherwise procured, and was taken through absolute necessity; setting forth the time and place when and where taken, the amount of compensation fixed by the appraisers, and the sum, if any, paid for the same. When the impressing officer shall fail to pay for property impressed, the owner shall be entitled to the speedy payment for the same by the proper disbursing officer.

SEC. 3. Whenever the appraisement provided for in the first section shall from any cause be impracticable at the time of impressment, in that case the value of the prop-

erty impressed shall be assessed as soon as possible by two loyal and disinterested citizens, of the city, county or parish where the property was taken, chosen, one by the owner and one by the Commissary or Quartermaster-General or his agent, who in case of disagreement, shall choose a third citizen of like qualification as umpire to decide the matters in dispute, who, being duly sworn, shall bear the proofs of the value of the property and assess a just compensation therefor, according to the testimony.

SEC. 4. Whenever the Secretary of War shall think it necessary to take private property for public use, he may by general order, through the proper subordinate officers, authorize such property to be taken, the compensation for the same to be ascertained as provided in the first and second sections.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the President, immediately after the passage of this act, to appoint a Commissioner in each State where property shall be taken for public use, and request the Governor of each of the States in which he shall appoint said Commissioner, to appoint another Commissioner to act in conjunction with the Commissioner appointed by the President, who shall receive eight dollars a day compensation and ten cents mileage, to be paid by the Confederate Government. Said Commissioners shall constitute a Board, whose duty it shall be to fix upon a price to be paid by the Government for all property impressed or taken, so as to afford just compensation to the owners thereof. Said Commissioners shall agree upon and publish a schedule of prices every two months, or oftener if they shall deem proper; and in the event they shall not agree in any matter confided to them, they shall have power to appoint an umpire, whose decision shall be the decision of the Board. The Commissioners shall be residents of the State for which they are appointed, and of the Governor of any State refuse or neglect to appoint a Commissioner within ten days after a request to do so by the President, the President shall appoint both Commissioners, by and with the consent of the Senate.

SEC. 6. All property impressed in the hands of any person other than the persons who have given, raised or produced the same, or persons holding the same for their own use or consumption, shall be paid for according to the schedule prices fixed by the Commissioners. But if the impressing officer or the owner shall differ as to the quality of the article impressed, thereby making it fall within a higher or lower price named in the schedule, then the owner or agent and the officer impressing may select each a loyal and disinterested citizen, duly qualified, to determine the quality of said property, who, in case of disagreement, appoint an umpire of like qualifications, and his decision, if approved by the impressing officer, shall be final. If not approved, the impressing officer shall send the award to the Commissioners of the State, with his reasons for disapproving the same, and said Commissioners may hear testimony, and their decision shall be final. The impressing officer, without prejudice to his claim to receive higher compensation.

SEC. 7. The property necessary for the support of the owner and his family, and to carry on his ordinary agricultural or mechanical business, these facts to be ascertained by the appraisers provided in the last section, shall not be taken or impressed for public use; and when the impressing officer and the owner cannot agree as to the quantity of property necessary as aforesaid, then the decision of the said appraisers shall be binding on the officer and all other persons.

SEC. 8. When property impressed for temporary purposes is lost or destroyed without the default of the owner, the Government shall pay a just compensation therefor, to be ascertained by appraisers appointed and qualified as provided in the third section. When such property, when returned, has in the public use, the amount of damage thereby sustained shall be ascertained in the manner prescribed in the third section, the officer returning the property being authorized to act on behalf of the Government, and upon such inquiry the certificates of the value of the property when originally impressed shall be received as *prima facie* evidence of the value thereof.

SEC. 9. Where slaves are impressed to labor on fortifications, or other public works, the impressment shall be made according to the rules and regulations prescribed in the laws of the State wherein they are impressed; and, in the absence of any such laws, in accordance with such rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, as the Secretary of War shall from time to time prescribe, provided no impressment of slaves shall be made when they can be hired or procured by the consent of the owner or his agent.

SEC. 10. This section provides for the punishment of any officer, non-commissioned officer or private, who shall violate the provisions of this act; and provides that the bill be entitled "An Act to regulate impressments."

Their Military Honor.

Some of the Yankee journalists profess to consider the continued prosecution of this war essential to the vindication of their military honor. It strikes us that military honor, or honor of any kind, so far as they are concerned, has very little to do with the whole proceeding. When a nation makes war upon another nation, boasting that its outnumbers its opponent four to one, that it has ten times the resources in money and manufacturing power, and five hundred times the naval force, we would say that very little honor could be achieved in such a war, even if completely successful. Four stout highwaymen, who should succeed in overpowering one solitary traveler, might fill their pockets with the ill-gotten gain, but would scarcely set up a claim to courage and chivalry on the strength of that achievement.

Whilst we have never impeached the general courage of the North, or any other race of mankind, we feel quite sure that this war is one of the most unbecomingly toward was recorded in the annals of history. They have never based their own hopes of success for a moment on anything but superior brute force. They declare that they have had in the field over a million of men, and there has been a great deal more of the spirit of speculation for men need slight inducements in the way of prebend or example to go into a business certain to produce wealth, though unfortunately it may cost the expense of conscience and a country. A single speculator may often poison a whole community by his pernicious influence and example.

The Federal treasury department has given notice that the laws do not provide a bounty to those soldiers discharged from disability from other causes than wounds. Only those wounded and discharged obtain the bounty.

The ship Prince of Wales, from Melbourne, reports that she was boarded on the 22d of February, in latitude 30 degrees, longitude 44 degrees west by the pirate Alabama, who reported having destroyed thirty-four Federal vessels during her cruise.

Seven of the different Banks of Savannah have acceded to a proposition made by the President of the Marine Bank of that city to loan the city \$100,000 each, without interest and one loan of \$500,000, to be invested in provisions, which are to be sold at prime cost to the needy and others of Savannah.

ture defects equally humiliating. Their only chance of military honor is to meet us on equal terms, fifty thousand to fifty thousand, and then, if they whip us, they will have something to boast of. For our own part, we would not only be willing to leave the point of military honor, but the whole cause of our country, to the result of such a battle.—Richmond Dispatch.

After a Little While.

After a little while
When all the glories of the night and day
Have faded for aye;
From Friendship's glance and beauty's winsome smile,
I pass away—
After a little while.

After a little while,
The snow will fall from time and trial shocks
Down these dark locks;
Then passing onward to the Golden Isle,
I leave the rocks—
After a little while.

After a little while,
Perchance, when youth is blazoned on my brow,
As hope is now,
I drop and wither in this dim decline
A fruitless bough—
After a little while.

After a little while,
And clouds that shimmer on the robes of June,
And vestal morn,
No more my fragrant fancies can beguile;
I slumber soon—
After a little while.

After a little while,
The birds will serenade in bush and tree,
But not for me,
On billows dusker than the gloomy Nile,
My barque must be—
After a little while.

After a little while,
The cross will gladden and the thistles wave
Above my grave,
And planets smile—
Dear God! then pillowed on thy gentle breast,
I faint would rest—
After a little while.

JAMES R. RANDELL.

Who Will be Responsible?

A writer in the Jackson Appeal, who claims to be familiar with the planting districts of Georgia and Alabama, says the farmers are preparing to plant large crops of cotton. He had conversed with many intelligent gentlemen, who informed him that the planters of Middle Georgia and South Alabama intended to plant not only all the new law allowed, but that they intended disregarding actual law which they considered unconstitutional. We have heard these rumors from sources never home, and have some reason to fear there is some truth in them. We have heard it intimated that the Legislature had no right to transcend the bounds of the Constitution by dictating to men what they shall plant or sow, and then by seizing whatever provisions they shall raise at one-third its value. This is some of the legitimate fruits of government seizures. It opens to our view a very dark future. Our Congress has exhibited nothing but imbecility during the whole of its present session. Apparently members have been too busily engaged in making personal explanations, vouching resolutions of thanks to petty military officials, expelling reporters, discussing the merits of some proposed model for a flag and seal, or indulging in empty declamation concerning the law of blockade, to give their attention to the currency or to the commissariat. Some of our State Legislatures and State Executives have been rendering their names illustrious by insane attempts to destroy the rights of private property, the questionable expediency of breaking down all law, and by attempting to revolutionize society generally.

SEC. 7. The property necessary for the support of the owner and his family, and to carry on his ordinary agricultural or mechanical business, these facts to be ascertained by the appraisers provided in the last section, shall not be taken or impressed for public use; and when the impressing officer and the owner cannot agree as to the quantity of property necessary as aforesaid, then the decision of the said appraisers shall be binding on the officer and all other persons.

SEC. 8. When property impressed for temporary purposes is lost or destroyed without the default of the owner, the Government shall pay a just compensation therefor, to be ascertained by appraisers appointed and qualified as provided in the third section. When such property, when returned, has in the public use, the amount of damage thereby sustained shall be ascertained in the manner prescribed in the third section, the officer returning the property being authorized to act on behalf of the Government, and upon such inquiry the certificates of the value of the property when originally impressed shall be received as *prima facie* evidence of the value thereof.

SEC. 9. Where slaves are impressed to labor on fortifications, or other public works, the impressment shall be made according to the rules and regulations prescribed in the laws of the State wherein they are impressed; and, in the absence of any such laws, in accordance with such rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, as the Secretary of War shall from time to time prescribe, provided no impressment of slaves shall be made when they can be hired or procured by the consent of the owner or his agent.

SEC. 10. This section provides for the punishment of any officer, non-commissioned officer or private, who shall violate the provisions of this act; and provides that the bill be entitled "An Act to regulate impressments."

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As some equity has lately been made by persons holding funds in trust for others, in regard to their authority to invest the same in Confederate bonds, we publish below, for the benefit of all concerned, an Act of the General Assembly of South Carolina, passed in December 1861, entitled "An Act to authorize Trustees to invest funds in the Bonds of the Confederate States."

"*It is enacted* by the Senate and House of Representatives, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, That Guardians, Trustees, Administrators, Executors, Mistresses and Commissioners in Equity, and all other persons holding funds in trust for investment, are hereby authorized to invest the same in bonds of the Confederate States of America. *Provided*, That said Trustees and Commissioners shall be bound to conform to the Court directing a different investment."

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